REMARKS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-8 in the application. In a previous response, Claims 1 and 6 were amended. In the present response, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to place them in better form for consideration on appeal. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of an informality. More specifically, the Examiner has objected to the missing application number on page 1, line 3 of the specification. In response, the Applicants have amended the specification to include the application number. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to remove the objection to the specification in view of the amendment.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,797,124 to Walsh, *et al.* (Walsh). Walsh teaches a system and method for voice controlled message retrieval using an associated header and return address for each message stored in a voice mail system. To retrieve a message, a subscriber may simply speak the associated header. (Abstract). In the Examiner's Action, the Examiner asserts that Walsh teaches each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6. (Examiner's Action, pages 3-4). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Walsh does not teach a method of spotting a key segment in a voice message including comparing the stored characteristics of a key segment against the voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message or tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment. (Claims 1 and 6). In Walsh, the system prompts the caller to input a name tag, or header when the caller connects with the subscriber's voice mail system. The system then generates a speech recognition template from the header. The caller is then prompted to leave a voice message for the subscriber which is saved in the voice mail system along with its associated header and return address. (Column 2, line 62 to Column 3, line 22).

The inputted header, however, is not compared to the voice message. On the contrary, the header is compared to a spoken header from the subscriber to select which voice message to play. (Column 3, lines 51-59). No comparison is performed against the voice message to determine the header. In fact, no comparison is performed against the voice message at all. Instead, headers received from callers are used to assist the subscriber in selecting voice messages to play. Walsh, therefore, does not teach comparing the stored characteristics of a key segment against the voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message as recited in Claims 1 and 6.

In addition, Walsh does not tag any portion of the voice message with the location of a header. Instead, the system prompts the caller for a header before prompting the caller to leave a message. The voice messages are then saved in the system with the associated headers and the headers are later used by the subscriber to select which voice message to play. (Column 2, line 66 to Column 3, line 59). Walsh, therefore does not teach tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment as recited in Claims 1 and 6.

-6-

Since Walsh does not teach comparing the stored characteristics of a key segment against the voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message or tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment, Walsh does not disclose each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(b) rejection with respect to Claims 1-4 and 6-7.

III. Rejection of Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walsh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,553 to Contolini, *et al.* (Contolini). The Examiner asserts that Walsh teaches each and every element of Claims 5 and 8 except a pronunciation of the key segment. (Examiner's Action, page 5).

As discussed above, Walsh does not teach comparing the stored characteristics of a key segment against a voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message or tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment as recited in independent Claims 1 and 6. In addition to not explicitly teaching the elements of independent Claims 1 and 6, Walsh does not suggest comparing the stored characteristics of a key segment against a voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message or tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment. Moreover, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to alter the teachings of Walsh to arrive at the present invention because Walsh teaches determining headers separately from voice messages. (Column 2, line 66 to Column 3, line 22).

Additionally, Contolini fails to cure the deficiencies of Walsh since Contolini does not teach or suggest spotting a key segment in a voice message including comparing the stored characteristics of the key segment against the voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message or tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment. Instead, Contolini simply teaches automatically generating phonetic transcriptions with little or no human involvement depending on the desired accuracy of a dictionary. (Column 1, lines 63-66).

Since Contolini fails to cure the deficiencies of Walsh, the combination of Walsh and Contolini fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6 and does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 5 and 8 which include the elements of Claims 1 and 6. The inventions, therefore, associated with dependent Claims 5 and 8 are not unpatentable over Walsh in view of Contolini. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 5 and 8.
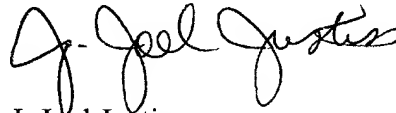
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

(1)   Please replace the paragraph which begins at page 1, line 2, with the following paragraph:

--The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/325,149

[_____ (Attorney Docket No. Lee 23-2)], entitled VOICE MESSAGE FILTERING FOR

CLASSIFICATION OF VOICE MESSAGE ACCORDING TO CALLER, filed on June 3,

1999, [even data herewith] and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of spotting a key segment in a voice message comprising the steps of:

identifying a key segment;

storing characteristics of the key segment;

receiving a voice message;

comparing the <u>stored</u> characteristics of [stored] <u>the</u> key segment against the voice message to detect the key segment in the voice message;

tagging the voice message <u>with</u> [so as to indicate] the location of the detected key segment [within the voice message];

receiving an enquiry for the key segment; and

retrieving the key segment from the voice message.

(2) Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Twice Amended) A method of spotting a key segment in a voice message comprising the steps of:

receiving a voice message;

receiving an enquiry for the key segment;

either obtaining the characteristics of the key segment from predefined key segments or storing the characteristics of the key segment;

comparing the <u>stored</u> characteristics of [stored] <u>the</u> key segment against the voice message

to detect the key segment in the voice message;

tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment; and

retrieving the key segment from the voice message.